

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NEW DE 15311 310802Z

12  
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W  
----- 123900

O 310705Z DEC 73  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

SECRET NEW DELHI 15311

EXDIS

EO: 11652 : GDS  
TAGS: MILI, XO  
SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REF: STATE 252323; STATE 252333

DEPARTMENT PASS LATERALLY AS DESIRED

1. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE, THE DCM CALLED ON JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA DECEMBER 31, TO DISCUSS THE INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP. SAYING THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED HIM TO GET THE INFORMATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DRAWING ON BOTH MESSAGES UNDER REFERENCE, THE DCM MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE SECRETARY WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL AND THE AMBASSADOR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH HAD DISCUSSED US INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO THE CARRIER ORISKANY. THE DCM WISHED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

B. PRESENT US INTENTIONS ARE FOR THE ORISKANY TO LEAVE THE INDIAN OCEAN IN MID JANUARY.

C. WE WILL NOT NOW BE SENDING ANOTHER AIRCRAFT CARRIER TO REPLACE THE ORISKANY, BUT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE WILL BE MAINTAINING A LARGER THAN USUAL NUMBER OF DESTROYERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ONE  
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OF THESE IS A NUCLEAR-POWERED FRIGATE, THE USS BAINBRIGE, WHICH HAS ALREADY ENTERED THE INDIAN OCEAN.

D. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE

THE PRESENCE OF THE BAINBRIDGE AT NOON IN WASHINGTON  
ON DECEMBER 31. (TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT PASSED ON).

E. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN A CARRIER AND A DESTROYER ESCORT CLASS SHIP  
SUCH AS THE BAINBRIDGE.

F. THE DEPARTURE OF THE ORISKANY AND SEVERAL OF  
THE SHIPS WITH IT WILL LEAVE A DIMINISHED US PRESENCE  
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

G. THESE MOVEMENTS OF US VESSELS SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE,  
BE TAKEN AS ANY INDICATION OF OUR INTENTIONS  
REGARDING FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. TEJA TOOK CAREFUL NOTES AND PROMISED TO INFORM THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER WITHOUT DELAY. HE HAD NO COMMENT TO  
MAKE WHICH WENT BEYOND WHAT THE GOI HAS ALREADY SAID ABOUT  
ITS CONCERN ABOUT BOTH US AND SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS IN THE  
INDIAN OCEAN. HE ENDED THE CONVERSATION  
BY NOTING THE PLANS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ORISKANY  
AND SEVERAL OF THE SHIPS WITH IT AND CONCLUDING THAT THIS UN-  
DOUBTEDLY MEANT THAT THE US NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN  
OCEAN WOULD BE LESSENED.

MOYNIHAN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, NAVAL SHIPS, INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP, ORISKANY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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